



STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Lower Elementary Aerospace Education Fact Sheet

The Lower Elementary Aerospace Education Program (LEAP) is an education program at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center specifically designed to enhance the awareness of space science in children in grades 2 through 4. This program seeks to motivate student interest in science and mathematics through the excitement of space adventure. Information is presented in ways appropriate to this age level.

Upon arrival, the children are brought into the excitement of space with a video depicting NASA's space program, from its inception to its future. The students are then introduced to "Living and Working in Space" through an interactive program designed for their age level. Throughout the program, students are involved in activities which take them on a mock adventure into space. The students "lift off" to become "astronauts" aboard mission STS-1995 to launch a special satellite. After a successful mission and landing, the students design and create their own NASA mission patches for an international space station.

Throughout LEAP, Visitors Center personnel interact with the students using questions and demonstrations to keep their attention. During their adventure, students get a close look at NASA's past, present and proposed future fleet of launch vehicles, take a close look at a NASA spacesuit, and handle rocket and shuttle models. The museum session reviews the Apollo era, when man first walked on the moon, and continues through the Space Shuttle era. Students are also informed about technology and programs using space research. This session ends with hands-on activities in Space Believe, an interactive science learning center in the Stennis Space Center Visitors Center.

Before leaving Stennis, each child is given a packet of information containing such items as a shuttle model cut-out, mission sticker and activity sheet. LEAP concludes with a 30-minute bus tour of the Space Shuttle Main Engine test complex and the rest of the center. While at Stennis, teachers may visit the Teacher Resource Center to collect educational materials geared toward the elementary level.

To participate, second- through fourth-grade teachers may bring their classes by appointment to the Visitors Center at Stennis on weekdays between September and May. For additional information or to make reservations for LEAP, write or call the Stennis Space Center Visitors Center at (601) 688-2370.



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Document: FS-SSC-008 (9509)

Modified: September 1995



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